the COURIER

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Gatena seeks challenges

Interview conducted
By Mary Kaye Reynolds

Q: Is this your first time to run for political office?

A: Yes.

Q: What made you decide to run?

A: I think mostly the challenge. I have tried professional sports, business--it's just something that fascinated me and I wanted to try it.

Q: Have you always been interested in politics or is this something new?

A: No, I used to figure we vote good people in and they take care of us. Over the years, you get to a point where you think maybe I could do it better. You see somebody doing something and you think--boy if I was in there, I wouldn't handle it that way. It built into a challenge.

Q: You said you see someone doing something you would have handled differently--is there anything specific?

A: No, I think it's a series of things. I think the direction Dubuque is headed in, in general--I fell almost obligated to start heading it off. I see too much legislation, I see a city manager who has entirely too much power, and I feel obligated to go in there and at least get it first hand before I come on strong and say this guy is too powerful, he should be out of office, or he isn't powerful enough, or he's not doing this or that rather than sit and criticize--if I could get on the inside and find out what exactly is going on and make my decisions there.

Bud Gatena

Q: What would you like to change about the present city council?

A: Issues come and go all the time. Right now there's hot issues and next week, they'll be forgotten. It's a constant challenge, and I've never turned down a challenge.

Q: What do you think of the proposals for an Adult Entertainment Zone in the downtown area?

A: I think it's a moral issue. The state of Iowa, who overrules the city, maintains that they're not breaking the law and until they break the law, you cannot jump in there and stop them. I see the zoning ordinance as Dubuque wants to put it in is a laugh. The way I like to explain it is adult entertainment has been here for 15 years in Dubuque. It is very localized around the 3rd street area, within a 2 block area. It hasn't shown any indication of spreading. It has stayed right in that area. Now the city ordinance that these people of the council are working on right now as much as says you are allowed to expand. They are staying in that area by themselves and the city council comes along and says we're going to put in an ordinance that says you can to anyhwere in town. In fact, we're even going to go further--we'll tell you where you can go. I think it's a useless ordinance. I think the only way to get this smut out of Dubuque is through the special interest groups--the churches, the League of Women Voters, etc. They're going to have to campaign to keep people out of there. They're not breaking the law. Let's compare it to the marijuana situation. I am strictly against it, the law is strictly against it, but the kids are basically using it. They maintain that there is nothing wrong with it, I'm a firm believer in if it's the law, enforce it. It's the same thing with the smut and the adult entertainment. Until they are actually breaking the law, the only defense you have is don't patronage it, and the special interest groups are the only ones who can push them out.

Q: What do you think of the juvenile problem in Dubuque?

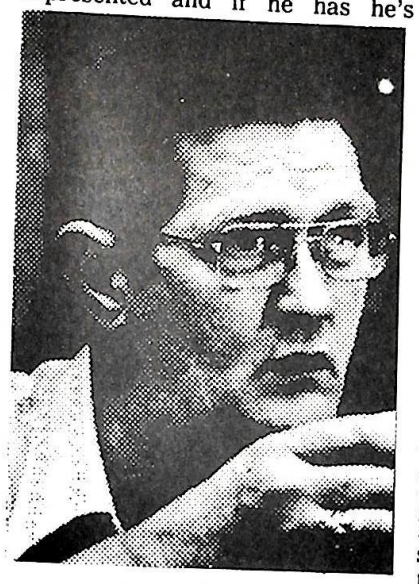
A: The way I see it is nobody is even working on it. I have an idea that I think would work, and should I be elected, I'm sure it would come out in the open. The biggest problem with juveniles is they're getting out from under the control of their parents. If a juvenile is picked up for a crime, I think they should be carded, they should be put on an individual curfew for at least 60 days. You can't curfew all the juveniles--you curfew the bad ones. If a kid has broken the law and you put him on an individual curfew--say 8 p.m., a mandatory fine should be leveled against the parents. In other words, the theme of the whole thing is--the parents are responsible, so you put the problem child back under the care of the parents. But then you hang a fine over the parents' head to make sure he's doing his job.

Deich states views on crime, Keyline

Interview conducted
By Cindy Dalsing

Q: Why are you running for the vacant city council seat and what are your qualifications for this position?

A: I was a nobody, which is why nobody knows me. I was one of those people who just went to city council meetings and sat there and said nothing. I seen the way city government was being run and thought things were falling apart; the flag doesn't mean anything anymore, patriotism is dead. And, I seen that the everyday citizen has not been represented on the councils; all through the years we've had one, two men on the council. Business has always been represented on it. The average citizen has never really been represented and if he has he's always been in the minority, through the years.



Donald Deich

Q: If you are elected to the council, how do you propose to change thse problems?

A: Well, look at this. We have an outfit who wants to come by and develop property, they want the council to annex it. Again we have plastic pipe in the ground and again we have the city manager coming along and saying it was the staff; it is a staff decision. I don't agree. I don't agree that anytime a city manager or any one of the staff coming along and try to start something new and different without at least saying, "Look, we want to try this, we want to experiment, will you give us an okay it." Fine, under these conditions I'll go along with it, with the understanding that if it is not proper, if it's not done right, that they will go in and redo it, that they're going to have to do it to protect everybody. We're playing with people's lives, we're playing with property.

Q: Besides the lack of power, what other problems do you see with the present city council?

A: Right now we have got a rubber stamp machine running and they're very open about it. Just look at the council proceedings since Mr. Pregler has been on it. You'll see that he's putting forth most of the resolutions, most of the motions, most of the talking is being done by him. And when he backs something up, Wertzberger and Tully back it up. Occasionally Mike Stackis will back him up, and occasionally Brady will back him up. I'm not saying he's all wrong. I just question the motivation behind it. I question the fact that here we have previous councils coming along and not leaving their hands out of the election.

Q: So the real reason you're running, then, is to keep Pregler out of the council?

A: I'm not running against one council incumbent, I'm running against four council incumbents. I don't think Moldenhauer is in on it. I don't know about the others. But I do feel that they're scared of me.

Q: What about juvenile crime?

A: We do have a juvenile crime problem. But it is a difficult thing for a councilman to come along and say how to solve it. Nobody else has been able to solve it and actually we have very little power to use to solve it. The only thing you can do is attempt the impossible. To have recreation facilities come along and take the idel time and put it into a constructive, directive source of relieving the energy. We do have a lot of organizations. I believe the council can come along and, not as a council itself but as individual members of an elected body that the people will look up to and try and give them all the support that you can possibly give them, legally and morally. I believe you just do the best you can.

Q: On the Keyline bus system?

A: Keyline is running at a deficit and always will be running at a deficit. But for people who don't have automobiles and don't drive its possible to have the Keyline. It would be a crime to abolish it. We should go by the commission that we've got on it, listen to them very closely on what they've got to say, and listen to the public on it. After all, they're the ones paying the bill. If the public says don't expand it, don't expand it. We should have a little better service on it that we've got rather than curtailing it. Curtailing it and increasing prices is a sure way to get rid of it. You can't compete in our business-like atmosphere if you do that. It's just a one-way street and you loose. We should just try to better the service as it is now and possibly build up to where it was years ago, when people were riding it. If workers downtown could use the bus we wouldn't need extra parking.

The COURIER presents a special issue devoted to the six candidates for the Dubuque City Council in the special election to be held March 22. The interviews of Donald Deich, Bud Gatena, Joseph Lytle, Wayne Moldenhauer, Ferd Nesler, and Walter Pregler were conducted by members of the Clarke College Student News Service. Photographs are courtesy of the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald.

Lytle proponent of work program

Interview conducted
By Jan Kitch

Q: Mr. Lytle, why did you choose to run for city council?

A: Well, basically, I had never been in a political race before, and I have always been interested in politics. I felt that I simply got tired of seeing the same faces occupying the council chambers. I thought that it was time that Dubuque possibly had some new views and maybe a different approach to city government.

Q: The first issue you mentioned was juvenile crime. Do you think it's a high percentage in Dubuque or is it any worse than any other large city?

A: It's definitely on the increase. I don't think there is enough being done by the courts. I'm not for just bringing a kid into court and slapping him on the wrist and saying, "Alright, go and sin no more." This is causing repeated offenses. They're beginning to see, "Well, if I commit a crime or do something against the city statutes, I'm not going to be punished for it. It's not going to cost me anything."

I'm for a city work program. By that, I mean that juveniles, who are caught committing crimes and are convicted by the courts, have some type of work program in the city; either policing of the parks or taking marks off of defaced public buildings. That will be both a help to the city and give the juvenile the idea that, "O.K., I've committed a crime. Now I'm going to have to pay for it." It is going to give them a feeling of some type of responsibility for their city and for the damage, the destruction, whatever they caused.

Just over the weekend there were $2,200 worth of windows shot out by BB guns and pellet guns in the city. One of these was at Holy Ghost Church and $900 worth of damage. All the school systems are hurting as far as money is concerned. When you have $900 worth of damage it's pretty tough to come up with that money. These are serious problems that aren't being really looked into by any of the council candidates, to my knowledge. They are issues which haven't been brought to the front, so to speak.

Q: How about fiscal responsibility?

A: I'm for fiscal responsibility, regardless of the type of government, because the nation as a whole is in a depressed condition right now. We're in a recession and we have to be fiscally responsible with our spending; only spend on those programs with the most priorities and let some of these other things go by the wayside.

There was one thing brought up by a councilman, to the effect that he would like to see the budget cut. I think it was $10,000 from the alcoholic treatment center. I categorically would not vote in favor of anything like that. I think people have a right to health care. Certainly alcoholism is a sickness and they have a right to as much health care as they can get. That is not an area where I would make the cuts.

There are other areas of the city budget where cuts could be made. I'm not specifying what those areas are because I'm not familiar with the budget.

Health care to parochial school children: parochial parents pay taxes to the city and they also pay support of their own schools. So they're not getting something for nothing. It's a case where they're paying for the service. I don't think we should penalize kids and their health care. I think it is a very important thing, and then spend money foolishly somewhere else - like 15 or 30 city cars that officials are driving on trips and back and forth to work at taxpayers' expense.

Joseph Lytle

There are some things happening in the city that should be looked into. We have an obligation, if I were on the council, I certainly would have an obligation to look into those things and find out where the damage is being done.

Q: Another issue is the deficit in the Key Line bus system. In a Telegraph-Herald article it states that several ideas were discussed to alleviate this. These were a bus fare increase, a passenger "head tax" on commercial flight passengers, parking meters in airport lots and shorter hours at the library. Which of these recommendations would you follor ow disregard?

A: I'm not in favor of any of them. I don't think any of them are pertinent to the problem. I think a study should be made to see how many people are using the buses. We could do with less busses. We could cut down the cost of overhead in that way. I think we pay 25 or 30 thousand dollars for a bus.

Find out how many people are using busses. I think that the majority of people using them are elderly. If there were some way that the system could be streamlined, a way that the people could call in, indicating what part of the city they are in, if you could use two or three busses to complete the function of five or six, you're going to be saving dollars.

Transportation, fine arts concern Moldenhauer

Interview conducted
By Fred Appel

Q: Dr. Moldenhauer, you have shown interest and said a lot about the need of culture and fine arts for the city, what do you propose that you and the council do about it?

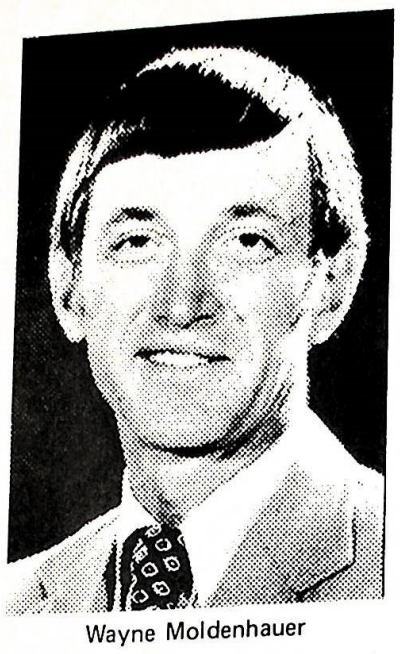
A: I propose that we move right along with an historical ordinance, in which we work with and encourage property owners to preserve the historical heritage which has been given to us by our predecessors. Dubuque has more to offer than any city in Iowa. We must carefully plan to preserve this heritage while we move on to provide for the ever changing needs of our people. There can and should be a good blending of the new with the old.

Q: Parking has become a problem downtown. There have been many suggestions such as raising the parking fees and adding a new floor to the 5th street ramp. What are your ideas on this?

A: There certainly is a problem of having retail parking in the downtown area. We have had a number of buildings converted to office space. This has meant a dramatic increase in all day parkers. This increase in all day parking has resulted in a decrease in available parking for retail shoppers. I think there are some short term things that can be done to provide more parking for retail shoppers. Among those things is angle parking on some streets that in the past have supported angle parking. I think a couple of these could be between Bluff and Hill Street on 8th Avenue, some sides of Washington Park, and several others.

Q: The city did the Interstate Power Company a favor by absorbing their 'dead Horse' or dying bus system. It has proved very costly with big deficit. How would you remedy the situation?

A: The bus system and the deficit incurred by it concerns me. That is one of the reasons I took a survey of various neighborhoods in the city and asked about the buses: whether people ride the buses, if so did they have any suggestions on how to make it more attractive and easier to ride. I believe that deficit are something we cannot live with. We certainly must try to change the trend and reduce the deficit. We need to find ways to encourage people to ride the buses; either that or we have to change some of the concepts of the way we are running the bus system. I happen to have some friends in a suburb of Chicago where the bus system practically



Wayne Moldenhauer

breaks even. It is designed to take people to and from commuter trains. It is designed to take people to shopping areas at scheduled times during the day. It is designed to work with people on a monthly charge rather than pay each time. They tailor the routes to meet the needs of the people. I think our transit board should make some trips to places like this suburb of Chicago and talk with bus systems that are operating on different concepts. The bus system is an important service in the community; I want to see it continue, but I want it to be operated in such a way that we can afford it.

Another solution is to work with the Post Office to develop funding that could provide for ramping over the Bluff Street ramp across from the Post Office. Currently that lot fills up around nine o'clock in the morning and there are not additional spaces available. The Post Office needs more parking space and I think we can work with them. Some restructuring of the fees in the ramps is probably in order; however, I would like to see the fees for the one or two hour parker to remain at a low level. This would encourage using the space for retail parking. The reason for this is to provide incentives for retail merchants to remain in the downtown area. I think it would be wrong if retail merchants exit from the downtown area. We must do something about downtown parking or we are going to see a loss of additional major stores from this area.

Former mayor, councilman subscribes to city progress

Interview conducted
By Jane Daly

Q: You have served in the capacity as Dubuque city councilman before, haven't you?

A: Yes, twice as mayor in 1966 and 1969 and eight years on the council, from 1966 including 1973.

Q: During these years what changes did Dubuque undergo?

A: We instituted several projects, one being the construction of five and a half miles of floodwall to protect the city from the river, the comprehensive 12.5 square block urban renewal project to redevelop the downtown core of the central business district area; the innovation, design and starting construction of Iowa's first and the only city on the Mississippi River to go to complete and total secondary sewage treatment which will be completed in the near future. It's been a controversial subject, a lot of people complain about it but when it is completed it will remove 97 per cent of the impurities out of the waste water before it is discharged back into the stream. We modernized our airport and brought it up to classification, extending our runways, inaugurating full turbine jet service by Ozark, putting in an instrument landing system making it an all-weather, all-purpose general aviation airport. We updated and modernized both our police department and fire department by giving new facilities and new equipment. We built a new jail, many other street projects, zoning projects.

Q: Through your pleas for second liquor store in 1972 has the problem of liquor importation improved any for the city of Dubuque?

A: Liquor importation has diminished quite a bit. Not only did the state, after three years of begging the governor and the legislature the newly created Liquor Control Commission came to Dubuque, surveyed the situation, installed the second liquor store, relocated the original liquor store and changed the philosophy of merchandising from an almost mafioso type of arrangement to a self-service type of supermarket. Liquor sales have increased tremendously in the city of Dubuque; which leads me to believe

Walter Pregler

that people are no longer patronizing the self service store in East Dubuque because they find it more convenient in their own home town.

Q: In 1972 when the city council tried to stop Medical Associates from moving on the Mercy Hospital campus through a zoning amendment it caused quite a controversy–did it endanger the council's reputation any?

A: I doubt seriously whether it endangered the reputation of the city council as much as it really exposed the narrowmindedness of councilmen Joe Bitter, Wayne Moldenhauer and Bob Justmann.

Q: You were quoted in the Telegraph Herald as saying Mercy Hospital had the right to know what impact this case would have had on Dubuque if they were never informed of the zoning amendment?

A: It would have had a very regressive impact on Dubuque if Medical Associates wouldn't have been able to build at Mercy. Since Medical Associates built its new facility on the Mercy campus they've probably been able to recruit 15 additional doctors and specialists that were tremendously needed in the city.

Q: In Sept. of 1973 you stated that you wouldn't seek re-election because of the office's time-consuming duties. Why have you chosen to run this term?

A: The makeup of the council is completely different. In 1973 I completed two years of being an absolute minority of one, serving with four councilmen who had philosophies that I personally could not subscribe to. The meetings every week were lasting for five hours at least. The homework was incomprehensible and the progress was almost at a stand still. I was frustrated; I wanted out and I didn't want to run again.

The community is getting more actively involved. I felt that the council was working together and had a philosophy that I could subscribe to and held some of the goals we had laid out in 1966. I would like to help them reach the goals.

Q: Do you feel your interim position as councilman gives you an advantage in the race?

A: No. It's a definite disadvantage because the other five candidates now shoot at me. They're all running against Walt Pregler instead of running for themselves. You will notice that in their news releases.

Q: How do you feel your philosophy as a councilman differs from the other five candidates?

A: I can only say that my philosophy differs from another tested public official and that is Wayne Moldenhauer. Wayne is very conservative, very confident of his own personal beliefs. His own personal beliefs are what he fosters at the table. I think that this can be borne out dramatically in his career as Dock Commissioner. It's been highly controversial and been more recreational than industrial, the purpose that the commission was instituted for. Moldenhauer is trying to change the complexion of that. My philosophy is that I've taken a foothold on the policy that Dubuque has been at a standstill for so long that it's time we get it moving. Many people believe that Dubuque is a good town to be from. I kind of think it's a nice town to live in, but we still have no potential for the kids who graduate from high school to find a way to earn a living in this community unless they go on to the professions.

Q: What do you consider to be the most pressing issue in this campaign?

A: We have a bus system that is running on a 1.5 million deficit a year. We have a street system that needs major surgery particularly in the west end to handle the businesses in that area. We desparately need a new bridge.

Nesler advocates help for juveniles

Interview conducted
By Elizabeth Aga

Q: Is this your first time running for a public office?

A: Yes. It's the first time.

Q: What issues do you feel are important?

A: Well, there's quite a few major issues. I feel the historical preservation ordinance for one which they're working on right now. I definitely feel we should have a historical preservation ordinance and the noise ordinance.

The development of the city island, where the dump used to be is another issue.

And, there's quite a few neighborhood – we call them neighborhood committees or councils, I don't know because each one has a different name. They should be in closer ties with the city council. They're very important if you live in those neighborhoods. That's the reason they have those councils -- to project their interests in their property.

Q: Do you see crime as a problem in Dubuque?

A: There's vandalism. I think there isn't any crime in Dubuque as far as rape and murder are concerned. That's in the big cities. We've got a very efficient police department. Vandalism is something the police can't control. They can't be in the area all the time. I don't think vandalism is a police problem; it's the court's problem.

Q: In what way?

A: Younger kids they're below the age--18 or under. If you're 18 then they could prosecute you, but if you're under 18, all they could do is pick you up and cart you over to your parents or take you to juvenile court. They don't do anything to you.

Q: What does the court do to them?

A: The judge instead of turning them to the parents, a lot of time that goes back to their parents who don't discipline them--they let them run out all night riding in cars. They once had a curfew in Dubuque at 10 p.m. If you're under 18 and out at 10 you had to have a good excuse. There again, the police can't do anything. I think the major problem in Dubuque, as regards crime is vandalism. Breaking into cars, stealing radios and tapes. It's not all juveniles doing it either.

But I wouldn't put that blame on the police; it's the courts being too lenient when they catch them. And the courts have their hands tied--the judge can't do anything, it's a minor. All you can do is turn them over to a probation officer and the minor is required to come once a week and talk to the probation officer. And kids nowadays don't have any responsibilities they think it's a joke. If there's some way you could punish them for what they did. Just going to a probation officer isn't a remedy--they laugh about it. You can't throw them in jail--that's the worst thing you could do. As minors, you put him in a county jail with a bunch of hardened criminals. He'll learn more in the jail than he'll learn out in the streets. I think there should be more for the kids to do other than ride around all night.

Ferd Nesler

Q: What do you think you can do to alleviate problems generated by teenagers.

A: I think the problem starts at home. Sons or daughters are running around vandalizing properties. It's probably they've got unhappy lives and they're taking it out by doing this, or else it's people they run around with or psychologically they're trying to get back at their parents for something. It sort of creates attention. That will be the probation officer's job to find out. A lot of times it'll be a repeat type situation. Once they do it and find out they get away with it then it becomes a challenge. They don't want to get caught of course.

Q: Would you recommend imposing the curfew for teenagers?

A: Yes. I think it's a good idea although I don't know what time to put. I know teenagers will hate it. But I feel 10 or 11 at night is pretty late for someone under 18 to be out because there's nothing to do in Dubuque. As an adult there's nothing to do that late. I can't visualize what teenagers would do running around that late. I don't know if they have a curfew at night if they do, they don't enforce it. I know they did a few years ago. If you were caught out you weren't arrested, the police just took you home. They'd take you to the station and call up your parents to pick you up.

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